

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/670,028

Applicant(s)

OLAFSSON, SVEINN

Examiner

Marianne L. Padgett

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE papers of 10/29/03 & after final amendment of 8/21/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6 ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. 2003/1128
- 7 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/29/03 has been entered.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 17-47 to apparatus and product claims non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 17-47 have been cancelled.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: applicant's amendment and discussion thereof have more exactly defined what is the cryogenic media & how it is used in the claims, so that the process of Van Loenen no longer reads on the step sequence and actions of the claims, as while the process and all materials involved, may be cryogenic, when there is media (vacuum) between the electrode & substrate (material to be processed) only scanning/observation is occurring, but during the processing no media as now defined is between. Li et al while similar to Van Loenen, but operating in air, vacuum or liquids, does not mention use of cryogenics.

Applicant has added the term "cryogenic temperature" to the claims & while many examples thereof were found through out the specification, no definition was found to provide a range. The previously cited Webster's only provides one with relative terms, and the excerpt on cryogenic from the

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Encycl. of Physics provides relevant information, but no range. The excerpts from Hackh's and Hawley's both provide definitions ($<-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $<-200^{\circ}\text{C}$, respectively), but not the same. As the former appears to be consistent with applicants specification as exemplified by the table of Fig.6, the $<-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ will be taken as providing a definition with clear metes and bounds.

Other art of interest include Olk and Zettl et al, who both make nanotubes with cryogenic techniques (with liquid nitrogen, etc., submersion or cooled electrodes, respectively), but while the product is of the right dimension, it is not necessarily representative of the area being treated. Also, both discuss maintaining or sustaining the arc between the electrodes, not pulsing the voltage as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Marianne L. Padgett at telephone number (703) 308-2336 or after Dec. 9th or 10th at (571) 272-1425, on M-F from about 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, and FAX# (703) 305-9306 (all official).

MLP

11/28/03



MARIANNE PADGETT
PRIMARY EXAMINER